

IN THE UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT  
FOR THE NORTHERN DISTRICT OF OHIO  
EASTERN DIVISION

IN RE NATIONAL PRESCRIPTION	)	CASE NO. 17-MD-2804
OPIATE LITIGATION	)	
	)	<b>SPECIAL MASTER COHEN</b>
<b>This document relates to:</b>	)	
<i>All Cases</i>	)	
	)	<b>AMENDMENTS TO CMO NO. 2</b>
	)	<b>RE: CONFIDENTIALITY AND</b>
	)	<b><u>PROTECTIVE ORDER</u></b>

The parties have agreed to make certain amendments to various paragraphs contained in the Court's Case Management Order No. 2 (docket no. 441) which address confidentiality and Protective Order issues. The parties submitted other proposed amendments upon which they could not agree. The Special Master now adopts the parties' agreed-upon revisions and also resolves the parties' disagreements, and amends CMO-2 accordingly, as set out in the attached document.

**RESPECTFULLY SUBMITTED,**

/s/ David R. Cohen

**David R. Cohen**  
**Special Master**

**Dated:** September 29, 2019

AMENDMENTS TO CONFIDENTIALITY & PROTECTIVE ORDER PROVISIONS  
OF CMO NO. 2 (docket no. 441)

6. This Protective Order does not confer blanket protection on all disclosures or responses to discovery and the protection it affords extends only to the specific information or items that are entitled to protection under the applicable legal principles for treatment as confidential. Parties shall not be overly broad in designating materials as Confidential or Highly Confidential under this Protective Order. If a Party is repetitively, overly broad in designating materials as Confidential or Highly Confidential, that Party risks having large categories of such designations denied protection. The Court expects and will assume that the attorney submitting the designation has reviewed it and does so subject to Rule 11.

10. Confidential Information. “Confidential Information” is defined herein as information that the Producing Party in good faith believes would be entitled to protection on a motion for a protective order pursuant to Fed. R. Civ. P. 26(c) on the basis that it constitutes, reflects, discloses, or contains information protected from disclosure by statute, or that should be protected from disclosure as confidential personal information, medical or psychiatric information, personnel records, Confidential Protected Information, protected law enforcement materials (including investigative files, overdoes records, Narcan records, coroner’s records, court records, and prosecution files), research, technical, commercial or financial information that the Designating Party has maintained as confidential, or such other proprietary or sensitive business and commercial information that is not publicly available. Public records and other information or documents that are publicly available may not be designated as Confidential Information. In designating discovery materials as Confidential Information, the Producing Party shall do so only after review of the documents or information by an attorney who has, in good faith, determined that the material would be entitled to protection on a motion for a protective order pursuant to Fed. R. Civ. P. 26(c), that the material is not otherwise publicly available, and that the material is not “stale” or old to a point where it is not entitled to protection consistent with the provisions of this Protective Order and rulings of the Special Master and the Court. Nothing herein shall be construed to allow for global designations of all documents as “Confidential.”

11. Highly Confidential Information. “Highly Confidential Information” is defined herein as information which, if disclosed, disseminated, or used by or to a Competitor of the Producing Party or any other person not enumerated in Paragraphs 32 and 33, could reasonably result in possible antitrust violations or commercial, financial, or business harm. In designating discovery materials as Highly Confidential Information, the Producing Party shall do so only after review of the documents or information by an attorney who has, in good faith, determined that the material would be entitled to protection on a motion for a protective order pursuant to Fed. R. Civ. P. 26(c), that the Producing Party has made reasonable efforts to keep the material confidential, that the material is not otherwise publicly available, and that the material is not “stale” or old to a point where it is not entitled to protection consistent with the provisions of this Protective Order and rulings of the Special Master and the Court. Nothing herein shall be construed to allow for global designations of all documents as “Highly Confidential.”

25. Information disclosed through testimony at a deposition taken in connection with this Litigation may be designated as Confidential Information or Highly Confidential Information by designating the portions of the transcript in a letter to be served on the court reporter and opposing counsel within thirty (30) calendar days of the Producing Party's receipt of the certified transcript of a deposition. The court reporter will indicate the portions designated as Confidential or Highly Confidential and segregate them as appropriate. Designations of transcripts will apply to audio, video, or other recordings of the testimony. The court reporter shall clearly mark any transcript released prior to the expiration of the 30-day period as "HIGHLY CONFIDENTIAL-SUBJECT TO FURTHER CONFIDENTIALITY REVIEW." Such transcripts will be treated as Highly Confidential Information until the expiration of the 30-day period. If the Producing Party does not serve a designation letter within the 30-day period, then the entire transcript will be deemed not to contain Confidential Information or Highly Confidential Information and the "HIGHLY CONFIDENTIAL-SUBJECT TO FURTHER CONFIDENTIALITY REVIEW" legend shall be removed. Any Confidential or Highly Confidential designations of deposition testimony by a party shall occur only if an attorney for that party has, in good faith, determined that the material is entitled to protection on a motion for a protective order pursuant to Fed. R. Civ. P. 26(c), that the Producing Party has made reasonable efforts to keep the material confidential, that the material is not otherwise publicly available, and that the material is not "stale" or old to a point where it is not entitled to protection consistent with the provisions of this Protective Order and the rulings of the Special Master and the Court. The Designating Party shall make page and line designations of deposition testimony; global designation of deposition testimony as Confidential or Highly Confidential is not permitted.

26. In accordance with this Protective Order, only the persons identified under Paragraphs 33 and 34 below, along with the witness and the witness's counsel, may be present if any questions regarding Confidential Information or Highly Confidential Information are asked. This paragraph shall not be deemed to authorize disclosure of any document or information to any person to whom disclosure is prohibited under this Protective Order.

27. A Party in this Litigation may designate as "Confidential" or "Highly Confidential" any document, material, or other information produced by, or testimony given by, any other person or entity that the designating Party reasonably believes qualifies as the designating Party's Confidential Information or Highly Confidential Information pursuant to this Protective Order. Any such designation may only be made after an attorney for the Designating Party has, in good faith, determined that the material would be entitled to protection on a motion for a protective order pursuant to Fed. R. Civ. P. 26(c), that the Producing Party has made reasonable efforts to keep the material confidential, that the material is not otherwise publicly available, and that the material is not "stale" or old to a point where it is not entitled to protection consistent with the provisions of this Protective Order and rulings of the Special Master and the Court. The Party claiming confidentiality shall designate the information as such within thirty (30) days of its receipt of such information. Any Party receiving information from a third party shall treat such

information as Highly Confidential during this thirty (30) day period while all Parties have an opportunity to review the information and determine whether it should be designated as confidential. Any Party designating third party information as Confidential Information or Highly Confidential Information shall have the same duties and rights as a Producing Party under this Protective Order with respect to such information.

28. This Protective Order shall not be construed to protect from production any document, or to permit the “Confidential Information” or “Highly Confidential Information” designation of any document, that (a) the party has not made reasonable efforts to keep confidential, or (b) is at the time of production or disclosure, or subsequently becomes, through no wrongful act on the part of the Receiving Party or the individual or individuals who caused the information to become public, generally available to the public through publication or otherwise.

29. In order to protect against unauthorized disclosure of Confidential Information and Highly Confidential Information, a Producing Party may redact certain Confidential or Highly Confidential Information from produced documents, materials or other things. The basis for any such redaction shall be stated in the Redaction field of the document and/or in the metadata produced pursuant to the Document Production Protocol or, in the event that such metadata is not technologically feasible, a log of the redactions. Specifically, the Producing Party may redact or de-identify:

(i) Personal Identifying Information. The names, home addresses, personal email addresses, home telephone numbers, Social Security or tax identification numbers, and other private information protected by law of (a) current and former employees (other than employees’ names and business contact information), (b) individuals in clinical studies or adverse event reports whose identity is protected by law, (c) undercover law enforcement personnel and confidential informants, and (d) patient identified information that is protected by 42 CFR 2.12 and associated regulations consistent with the Order Governing Production of Medical and Pharmacy Claims Data in Track One Cases [Dkt. 1421].

(ii) Privileged Information. Information protected from disclosure by the attorney-client privilege, work-product doctrine, or other such legal privilege protecting information from discovery in this Litigation. The obligation to provide, and form of, privilege logs will be addressed by separate Order.

(iii) Third Party Confidential Information. If agreed to by the Parties or ordered by the Court under Paragraph 78, information that is protected pursuant to confidentiality agreements between Designating Parties and third parties, as long as the agreements require Designating Parties to redact such information in order to produce documents in litigation.

Plaintiffs may withhold or redact the following specific protected information: (a) records of ongoing criminal investigations, and (b) records or information provided to the party by DEA, FBI, or other state or federal law enforcement agency that such agency designates is of a sensitive nature. The fact of redacting or withholding does not create a presumption that the redaction or withholding is valid, and Receiving Parties can challenge redactions freely after providing

appropriate notice to the Producing Party and (if applicable) the agency asserting the privilege or confidentiality redaction.

33. In the absence of written permission from the Producing Party or an order of the Court, any Confidential Information produced in accordance with the provisions of this Protective Order shall be used solely for purposes of this Litigation (except as provided by Paragraph 33.L) and its contents shall not be disclosed to any person unless that person falls within at least one of the following categories:

- a. Outside Counsel and In-House Counsel, and the attorneys, paralegals, stenographic, and clerical staff employed by such counsel;
- b. Vendor agents retained by the parties or counsel for the parties, provided that the vendor agrees to be bound by this Protective Order and completes the certification contained in Exhibit A, Acknowledgment and Agreement to Be Bound;
- c. Individual Parties;
- d. Present or former officers, directors, and employees of a Party, provided that former officers, directors, or employees of the Designating Party may be shown documents prepared after the date of his or her departure only to the extent counsel for the Receiving Party determines in good faith that the employee's assistance is reasonably necessary to the conduct of this Litigation and provided that such persons have completed the certification contained in Exhibit A, Acknowledgment and Agreement to Be Bound. Nothing in this paragraph shall be deemed to permit the showing of one defendant's Confidential Information to an officer, director, or employee of another defendant, except to the extent otherwise authorized by this Order;
- e. Stenographic employees and court reporters recording or transcribing testimony in this Litigation;
- f. The Court, any Special Master appointed by the Court, and any members of their staffs to whom it is necessary to disclose the information;
- g. Formally retained independent experts and/or consultants, provided that the recipient agrees to be bound by this Protective Order and completes the certification contained in Exhibit A, Acknowledgment and Agreement to Be Bound;
- h. Any individual(s) who authored, prepared, or previously reviewed or received the information;
- i. To the extent contemplated by Case Management Order One, dated April 11, 2018 (Dkt. No. 232), those liability insurance companies from which any Defendant has sought or may seek insurance coverage to (i) provide or reimburse for the defense of the Litigation and/or (ii) satisfy all or part of any liability in the Litigation.
- j. State or federal law enforcement agencies, but only after such persons have completed the certification contained in Exhibit A, Acknowledgment and Agreement to Be Bound. Disclosure pursuant to this subparagraph will be made only after the Designating Party has been given ten (10) days' notice of the Receiving Party's intent to disclose, and a description of the materials the Receiving Party intends to disclose. If the Designating Party objects to disclosure, the

Designating Party may request a meet and confer and may seek a protective order from the Court.

- k. Plaintiff's counsel of record to any Plaintiff with a case pending in MDL 2804 shall be permitted to receive the Confidential Information of any Producing Party regardless of whether that attorney is counsel of record in any individual action against the Producing Party and there shall be no need for such counsel to execute such acknowledgment because such counsel is bound by the terms of this Protective Order;
- l. Counsel for claimants in litigation pending outside this Litigation and arising from one or more Defendants' manufacture, marketing, sale, distribution, or dispensing of opioid products for use in this or such other action in which the Producing Party is a Defendant in that litigation, provided that the proposed recipient agrees to be bound by this Protective Order and completed the certification contained in Exhibit A, Acknowledgment and Agreement to Be Bound. Plaintiffs' Liaison Counsel shall disclose to all Defendants at the end of each month a cumulative list providing the identity of the counsel who have executed such acknowledgments and will receive Confidential and Highly Confidential Information pursuant to this Order and a list of the case name(s), number(s), and jurisdiction(s) in which that counsel represents other claimants. Neither the receipt of information pursuant to this paragraph nor the provision of the certification shall in any way be deemed a submission, by the claimant represented by counsel in such outside litigation, to the jurisdiction of this Court or any other federal court or a waiver of any jurisdictional arguments available to such claimant; provided, however, that any such recipient of documents or information produced under this Order shall submit to the jurisdiction of this Court for any violations of this Order; or
- m. Witnesses during deposition, who may be shown, but shall not be permitted to retain, Confidential Information; provided, however, that, unless otherwise agreed by the relevant Parties or ordered by the Court, no Confidential Information of one defendant may be shown to any witness who is a current employee of another defendant who is not otherwise authorized to receive the information under this Order.

34. In the absence of written permission from the Producing Party or an order of the Court, any Highly Confidential Information produced in accordance with the provisions of this Protective Order shall be used solely for purposes of this Litigation (except as provided by Paragraph 34.j) and its contents shall not be disclosed to any person unless that person falls within at least one of the following categories:

- a. Outside Counsel and In-House Counsel, and the attorneys, paralegals, stenographic, and clerical staff employed by such counsel. Information designated as Highly Confidential by any Defendant may be disclosed to In-House Counsel of another Defendant, provided that the In-House Counsel (i) has regular involvement in the Litigation (ii) disclosure to the individual is reasonably necessary to this Litigation, and (iii) the individual completes the certification contained in Exhibit

A, Acknowledgment and Agreement to Be Bound. Except as otherwise provided in this Order or any other Order in this Litigation, no other Employees of a Defendant may receive the Highly Confidential Information of another. Any information designated as Highly Confidential shall be disclosed to an In-House Counsel for any Plaintiff only to the extent Outside Counsel for that Plaintiff determines in good faith that disclosure to the In-House Counsel is reasonably necessary to the Litigation;

- b. Vendor agents retained by the parties or counsel for the parties, provided that the vendor agrees to be bound by this Protective Order and completes the certification contained in Exhibit A, Acknowledgment and Agreement to Be Bound;
- c. Individual Parties that have produced the designated information;
- d. Stenographic employees and court reporters recording or transcribing testimony in this Litigation;
- e. The Court, any Special Master appointed by the Court, and any members of their staffs to whom it is necessary to disclose the information;
- f. Formally retained independent experts and/or consultants, provided that the recipient agrees to be bound by this Protective Order and completes the certification contained in Exhibit A, Acknowledgment and Agreement to Be Bound;
- g. Any individual(s) who authored, prepared, or previously reviewed or received the information;
- h. State or federal law enforcement agencies, but only after such persons have completed the certification contained in Exhibit A, Acknowledgment and Agreement to Be Bound. Disclosure pursuant to this subparagraph will be made only after the Designating Party has been given ten (10) days' notice of the Receiving Party's intent to disclose, and a description of the materials the Receiving Party intends to disclose. If the Designating Party objects to disclosure, the Designating Party may request a meet and confer and may seek a protective order from the Court.
- i. Plaintiff's counsel of record to any Plaintiff with a case pending in MDL 2804 shall be permitted to receive the Confidential Information of any Producing Party regardless of whether that attorney is counsel of record in any individual action against the Producing Party and there shall be no need for such counsel to execute such acknowledgment because such counsel is bound by the terms of this Protective Order;
- j. Counsel for claimants in litigation pending outside this Litigation and arising from one or more Defendants' manufacture, marketing, sale, distribution, or dispensing of opioid products for use in this or such other action in which the Producing Party is a Defendant in that litigation, provided that the proposed recipient agrees to be bound by this Protective Order and completed the certification contained in Exhibit A, Acknowledgment and Agreement to Be Bound. Plaintiffs' Liaison Counsel shall disclose to all Defendants at the end of each month a cumulative list providing the identity of the counsel who have executed such acknowledgments and will receive Confidential and Highly Confidential Information pursuant to this Order

and a list of the case name(s), number(s), and jurisdiction(s) in which that counsel represents other claimants. Neither the receipt of information pursuant to this paragraph nor the provision of the certification shall in any way be deemed a submission, by the claimant represented by counsel in such outside litigation, to the jurisdiction of this Court or any other federal court or a waiver of any jurisdictional arguments available to such claimant, provided, however, that any such recipient of documents or information produced under this Order shall submit to the jurisdiction of this Court for any violations of this Order; or

k. Witnesses during deposition, who may be shown, but shall not be permitted to retain, Confidential Information; provided, however, that, unless otherwise agreed by the relevant Parties or ordered by the Court, no Confidential Information of one defendant may be shown to any witness who is a current employee of another defendant who is not otherwise authorized to receive the information under this Order.

46. To the extent that a Producing Party uses or discloses to a third party its designated confidential information in a manner that causes the information to lose its confidential status, the Receiving Party is entitled to notice of the Producing Party's use of the confidential information in such a manner that the information has lost its confidentiality, and the Receiving Party may also use the information in the same manner as the Producing Party. To the extent that a Producing Party's Confidential or Highly Confidential Information becomes part of the public record in this proceeding, through no wrongful act on the part of the Receiving Party or the individual or individuals who caused the information to become public through the Court record, the specific testimony, document excerpts, or other evidence will become and remain public. However, a Receiving Party shall not unnecessarily attempt to insert materials designated as Confidential or Highly Confidential into the Court record solely for purposes of making them public. Once information is made public, it is not confidential even if continued to be marked as such by the Producing Party, and the Receiving Party may freely use such information. A Receiving Party does not need to challenge Confidential or Highly Confidential designations of specific testimony, documents, or other evidence excerpts that become part of the public record in this proceeding. A Receiving Party can also challenge a designation for other testimony or portions of the excerpted document or other evidence as set forth in paragraph 52 below.

52. A Receiving Party does not waive its right to challenge a confidentiality designation by electing not to mount a challenge promptly after the original designation is disclosed. If the Receiving Party believes that portion(s) of a document or deposition are not properly designated as Confidential Information or Highly Confidential Information, the Receiving Party will identify the specific information that it believes is improperly designated and notify the Producing Party, in writing, of its reasons why the confidentiality designation was not proper and must: (a) give the Producing Party an opportunity to review the designated material, to reconsider the circumstances, and, if no change in designation is offered, to explain, in writing within seven (7) days, the basis of the chosen designation, and (b) offer to provide the Producing Party with multiple alternatives (dates and times) to meet and confer during the seven (7) day period following the date of the

Receiving Party's written challenge notification. Thereafter, if a Receiving Party elects to press a challenge to a confidentiality designation after considering the justification offered by the Producing Party, it shall notify the Producing Party, and the Receiving Party shall have seven (7) days from such notification to challenge the designation with the Court or Special Master. These time periods may be modified in emergent circumstances, as agreed to by the Challenging and Designating Parties, or as ordered by the Special Master or the Court. The ultimate burden of persuasion in any such challenge proceeding shall be on the Producing Party as if the Producing Party were seeking a Protective Order pursuant to Fed. R. Civ. P. 26(c) in the first instance. Until the Court rules on the challenge, all Parties shall continue to afford the material in question the level of protection to which it is entitled under the Producing Party's designation. In the event that a designation is changed by the Producing Party or by Court Order, the Producing Party shall provide replacement media, images, and associated production information as provided above. The parties are hereby notified that Discovery Ruling No. 20 Regarding Confidentiality Designations (Doc. 1650), as well as the "ARCOS Ruling" by the Sixth Circuit Court of Appeals (docket no. 1710), provide relevant legal standards, principles, and examples which should be followed and/or used as guidance relative to disputes over materials designated as Confidential or Highly Confidential at the discovery stage of the litigation.